insufficient securities and also bringing into existence benami bonds and tampering with accounts so as to conceal frauds and misappropriations in the societies;

(b) whether any special disciplinary measures are recommended in such cases;

(c) whether the Government discourage criminal prosecutions in such cases; and

(d) whether departmental officers are allowed to start prosecutions without the sanction of their superior officers?

A.—(a) Abuses of the kind mentioned do occasionally occur.

(b) Where serious fraud or misappropriation occurs, the case is reported to the Registrar with a view to the prosecution of the offender.

(c) No.

(d) No.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"With reference to clause (a), do the Government propose to take measures to minimise the malpractices?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"Yes; if they are found to be necessary."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Is the hon. the Minister aware that in several societies, the using of the cash balances by the office-bearers is visited by no other sign of disapproval from the department than by a letter to the very people who participated in this, and naturally these letters are merely crumpled and thrown away?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"If the hon. Member would give me any suggestions, I will consider them."

Industries.

Disposal of certain machinery purchased for the Kerala Soap Institute.

*273 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state the circumstances under which the Hornsby oil engine and pump purchased for the Kerala Soap Institute were sold for less than half its price; to whom they were sold and whether other departments of Government were consulted prior to their sale?

A.—The engine and pump were purchased in the year 1919 with the intention of employing them in the soap factory in connexion with a causticising plant for the manufacture of caustic soda. Subsequently the price of caustic soda fell and the proposal to erect the plant was given up. The engine was of an old type and was not likely to be useful to other Government departments. It was sold in 1924 to Messrs. Savour & Co., Calicut, for Rs. 1,000, the best offer obtainable.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, were the other departments approached at all in the matter? I want to know whether the officer did really enquire of other departments whether the oil engine was required o did he simply think out of his own imagination that they might not need it

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" He did not think it necessary, because he as Director has to give advice to other departments as regards the purchase. This machine was considered good for nothing and the money got must be considered as god-send."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know what price was paid for the purchase of this machine ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" Rupees 2,000 odd."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Then has the department perpetrated a fraud on the Company ? " (Laughter.)

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" It is a business transaction ; was the sale of the machine advertised ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" It was not."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Did they report to the Government that they were about to sell the machine and obtain their orders ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" It was such a small matter that it was not considered necessary."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Are there no rules to guide officers in these matters ? Is it absolutely at their discretion to do as they like ? "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" It is stated 'The engine was of an old type and was not likely to be useful, etc.' So, was there no new type of engine when this was purchased in 1919 ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" When they purchased it, it was the only type that was available."

The Fruit Preserving Institute, Coonoor.

* 274 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to paragraph 3 of G.O. No. 2002, Development, dated 21st November 1924, the orders passed by the Government as regards the continuance of the Fruit Preserving Institute, Coonoor ?

11-15 a.m.

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (c) of Question No. 585 printed on page 401 of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council, Volume XXIII—No. 5.

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I take it that the period for which this factory was established has expired ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" The period has not yet expired."

Veterinary.

The new Veterinary dispensary in Harpanahalli.

* 275 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) when the new veterinary dispensary will be opened in Harpanahalli, Bellary district ; and